

# Fantasy island?

■ Master of situational art skewers the wind farm process.

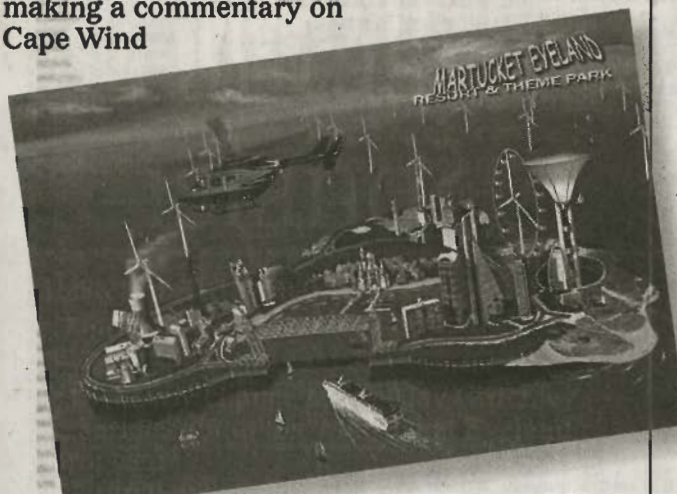
**I**s there any chance satirist Jay Critchley is serious about his "Martucket Eyeland" proposal?

Critchley has submitted a formal proposal to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to build a resort and theme park on the edge of the Nantucket Sound wind farm. In a press release trumpeting his project, the Provincetown artist described it as a "Disney-inspired development to include family-friendly gambling, shopping, an educational energy park and the spectacular Marconi sonic chowder."

In an artist's rendering of the project, "Martucket" would include a nuclear power plant, replicas of the Pilgrim monument and Cape Cod Canal railroad bridge, a casino, a shopping center called Meltdown Mall, and a ferris wheel afixed to the last wind turbine in a long array stretching into the horizon.

His plans, of course, strain credulity. But Critchley maintains a straight face when describing it: "It isn't all satire," he told a Times reporter. "I want to take advantage of the public land that is up for grabs."

In his uniquely offbeat way, Critchley is making a commentary on Cape Wind



Associates plans to plant 130 wind turbines in Nantucket Sound, a high-stakes issue that has become so fractious a little levity is not a bad thing.

Critchley's skewering of Cape Wind's proposal was lauded by the Boston Society of Architects, which sponsored a competition called "Windscape Ideas," and has drawn guffaws from those following the debate over the controversial wind farm.

The problem is, Critchley took his joke a step too far. By submitting the proposal to the Army Corps for permitting, he triggered a federal review that will prove a costly waste of time and resources. Corps spokesman Larry Rosenberg said it is not his agency's role to determine the intent of an applicant and they will be in the preliminary stage of determining what federal agencies should be involved in the process.

Critchley could face five years in prison and fines up to \$10,000 if it is determined that Nantucket Eyeland is a hoax.

But if Critchley is joking, he isn't letting on. This is the same artist who fought the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office over his "Old Glory Condoms," red, white and blue prophylactics he pitched this way: It's every American's duty to fight AIDS. The Patent Office refused the trademark, arguing the condoms would be offensive and would demean the flag, but the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board reversed the decision in 1993. The product got wide distribution.

The Army Corps this week will send Critchley a letter asking for more information about his latest project. If you take Critchley at his word, the joke could get tired pretty soon.

"This is the time to invest in Nantucket Sound development, before the feds over-regulate it," he said in his press release. "We're only expecting a \$100 million tax break, half of Cape Wind's."